

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Would you mind going through that one more time from the start? I'm sure interested in learning how you believe that A&M has a chance to play in the Cotton Bowl this year."

## U.S.-Iraqi relations restored

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The United States and Iraq, frequent antagonists during a 17-year break in relations prompted by the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Monday announced an immediate restoration of formal diplomatic ties.

The announcement was made at the White House, where officials stressed the move signaled no change in the neutral position President Reagan has staked out in the Iran-Iraq war, and has no effect on U.S. relations with Israel.

Final agreement, expected for several weeks, came during a half hour White House meeting attended by Reagan and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tarek Aziz.

A senior administration official described the move as having limited impact beyond improved bilateral relations in nonmilitary areas, but hinted the rapprochement could

help ease tensions in the Middle East.

The official also emphasized the improvement in bilateral ties, often strained over the past 17 years by the complex politics of the Middle East, should not be read as a step against Iran in its 4-year-old war with Iraq.

"We are prepared today to discuss improved relations with Iran — when Iran ceases its support for international terrorism and when Iran is prepared to seek a negotiated settlement of the war with Iraq," the official said.

While a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff report as early as 1982 detected a pro-Iraqi tilt in the U.S. position toward the Persian Gulf war, the official said Washington remains committed to neutrality and added both Iran and Iraq are still barred from access to U.S. military hardware.

Until three years ago, Iraq was on

a State Department blacklist that barred nations considered supporters of international terrorism from entering into contracts for U.S. products that had possible military applications.

"Resumption of relations," the senior official said, "doesn't portend any change in our arms policies toward either Iraq or Iran."

Iraq, in coordination with other Arab nations, broke off relations with the United States in retaliation for U.S. support of Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The prospect of upgraded relations between Washington and Baghdad has caused concern in Israel, mindful of past anti-Israeli sentiment in Iraq and a rocky history marked by the destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor research center in 1981 by U.S.-built Israeli warplanes.

## Navy saves \$243 million in contracts

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Navy Secretary John Lehman said Monday the Navy is saving \$243 million by awarding \$2 billion in contracts for construction of 10 ships.

All of the contracts were awarded on a fixed price basis, with an agreement that the contractor and the Navy will split the cost of overruns up to 25 percent over the contract price, Lehman said. If overruns exceed the 25 percent ceiling, the contractor will pay the full share, he said.

He told a news conference that \$600 million saved in shipbuilding costs this year were redirected to the MX missile program.

In the biggest single contract, \$779.4 million was awarded to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., of Newport News, Va., for three nuclear-powered attack submarines.

The Electric Boat Division of the General Dynamics Corp. of Groton, Conn., was given a \$282.9 million contract to build a fourth attack sub, Lehman said.

General Dynamics, which won the competition over Newport News the two previous years, was awarded a contract for the fourth submarine.

In contracting for all four submarines, Lehman said the Navy saved \$76.2 million.

## Bryant

(continued from page 1)

this is a cultural universal," Bryant said.

Bryant has traced the custom of kissing back to the first few centuries after Christ. Leaning back in his chair with his knee propped up on his desk, Bryant began to tell the origins of one of the world's most universal customs.

"Did you ever wonder where the expression 'kiss my ass' came from?" Bryant said. "It took me five years to find out the origin of that expression." Bryant said that early Christians wanted to rid themselves of Roman decadence, so they forbade all kissing except for the holy kiss. People could kiss items or people of religious significance, such as the Pope, Bryant said.

The satan worshipers also kissed people of religious significance; in their case, the devil, Bryant said. The devil was pictured as having two faces, Bryant said, one on the front of his head and the other under his tail. Bryant said this is where the expression "two-faced" came from. Satan worshipers kissed the devil on his face, Bryant said — the face that was under his tail and became known as "ass-kissers." Thus the expression "kiss my ass" came about to be directed toward a per-

son of low rank, Bryant said.

Another of Bryant's many talents is writing. Bryant likes to write short stories and has had a few of them published. Bryant has started a book he expects to be finished in January. The book, entitled "Late Quaternary Pollen Records of North America and Mexico," is expected "to be of extreme interest to a handful of people," Bryant said. "If the book is an amazing success, they may sell 1,000 copies in five years."

Bryant's research has taken him to various places in South America, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Mexico and all over the United States.

Bryant doesn't spend much time traveling because other archaeologists do the field work and he does the actual research. Bryant stays in town with his family and may travel to a dig site to check the progress of things.

"I consider myself as having the best of both worlds," Bryant said.

Bryant has had many job offers from other schools, including UT, and from oil companies.

Bryant said he stays at A&M because of his devotion to his work and the enjoyment he gets from working around other people.

## Somali hijackers continue threats

United Press International

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Five Somali gunmen Monday renewed their threat to blow up a hijacked airliner with 108 people aboard unless Somalia agreed to release 21 political prisoners.

The five, armed with machine guns, pistols and grenades, gave the Somali government until 8 a.m. today (Ethiopian time) to meet their demands, Ethiopian Foreign Ministry spokesman Tefere Gizaw said. The deadline was the fifth set

since three Somali army officers hijacked the Somali Airlines Boeing 707 to Ethiopia Saturday after it took off from the Somali capital of Mogadishu for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, en route to Cairo.

Two passengers in civilian clothes joined the three hijackers after the jet touched down at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa. It was not known if they helped plan the hijacking.

The new deadline doused optimism aroused earlier in the day

when Western diplomats said the hijackers had agreed to postpone indefinitely their noon deadline to give Somalia more time to consider their demands.

That word came after Somalia announced it had suspended, pending a review by Siad Barre, the death sentences of seven high school students convicted of bombing government installations who are among the prisoners the hijackers want freed and flown to neighboring Djibouti.

## Once A Year Sale!

The final twelve hours of the Diamond Room 707's Once A Year Sale takes place today from 10a.m. to 10p.m. Savings from 20% to 70% will be found throughout the store, so be sure to take advantage of this: The Sales Event of the Year!

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